

needed to be well educated and passed this belief onto his children.

To be black and well educated required that the Davis family find schools beyond the small, rural, operations for black children that existed at the time. Ressie attended high school at Jackson in Corsicana. Jackson was the designated school in town for black students during the era of segregation in Texas. Ressie's family left Rice and moved to where she met the love of her life, Robert March English.

She and Dr. English, 'Bob', married in the spring of 1939, and a few years later had their first child, a daughter named, Mary LlaBetta. By the time a second daughter, Lizzie Elizabeth Janet arrived, the family was living in the bustling town of Mineral Wells, Texas, and Dr. English had become an established young and dynamic Baptist minister working in Jacksboro, Texas.

Dr. English soon became vice-moderator and later moderator of the West Texas District Baptist Association. His ministry flourished, but the need for better medical resources dictated a return to Corsicana. They later added to the family daughters Doris Theresa, "SanDei", and Eva Carolyn and their two sons, Robert James and Joseph Hart-Davis English.

Ressie settled into her role of minister's wife working as a homemaker and running her household with great diligence. She agreed to move to Fort Worth with the caveat that if the church was to be in Lake Como, housing had to be found within walking distance to Como elementary school. Her last three children, Constance Grace, John Moses and Rubye DeiGratia were born in Lake Como. Fully settled in Fort Worth, all nine of the children graduated from or attended Como senior high school.

The English's were well regarded in the Lake Como community, unwavering in their commitment to the church, and steadfast in overseeing the activities of their nine children. The children participated in everything the school had to offer. Ressie made sure her children became fixtures in the recreational and academic setting in the Como community; from piano lessons to track and football, to the PTA, Drama and Debate Club to the National Honors Society, they did it all.

After the establishment of the first church commissioned by the West Texas Baptist Association, Ressie became "First Lady" of another church, independently established by her husband. They named it Mount Moriah Baptist Church. Dr. English guided this church until his death in 1987. Ressie always put God and family first, and in her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and harvesting fruit and vegetables at her Lake Como home. Trips to the now obsolete retailers, Handy Dan and Sutherland's, were her favorite places to buy outdoor and home improvement items. While she did enjoy fresh food; she never turned down a good Breakfast Jack or a two-piece meal from Churches on Lackland and Camp Bowie.

In addition to gardening, Ressie was also very handy at sewing; and always kept a machine, which she was very proud of, nestled near a corner window in her dining room. But most importantly Ressie enjoyed studying the Bible, and for most of her 106 years, she could quote scripture and the words of Jesus Christ with remarkable accuracy and clarity. She oftentimes hummed church hymns while knitting, reading, or working outdoors.

And her memory allowed her to be a master storyteller of days long gone. The summer of 2018 marked 106 years in the life of Ressie Davis English. On January 18, 2019, she went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate her life today with these words forever enshrined into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives, where her grandson Marc Veasey serves. She was preceded in death by her husband Dr. Robert English and three children Mary LlaBetta Sowels, Robert James English and Joseph Hart English, and two granddaughters.

Her legacy continues through her children, Elizabeth English Burky, Doris Theresa English, Eva Carolyn English-Clay, Constance English Cash, John Moses English and Charley Rubye English-Carter. She is also survived by many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Her kids and grandchildren have gone on to work in broadcasting, higher education, politics, the food and beverage industry, and many other endeavors of hard work and accomplishment of which Mrs. English was very proud.

I wish Mrs. English peace and my deepest condolences to Congressman VEASEY and his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUBLE OAK
TOWN SECRETARY CHARLOTTE
ALLEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary career of Mrs. Charlotte Allen, who will retire from her position as Town Secretary of Double Oak, Texas on February 1, 2019. The town has benefited immensely from her 17 years of devoted service to its citizens and Town Council.

Before beginning her tenure in Double Oak on April 2, 2002, Mrs. Allen served in various public service roles, including Town Secretary for Copper Canyon and City Secretary for Denton. She is well known for her dedication, work ethic, and reliability by colleagues and those she has mentored. Thanks to her hard work, the town of Double Oak has operated efficiently and reliably—a significant benefit to its citizens.

I am grateful for Charlotte Allen's contributions to the town of Double Oak, and I wish her all the best in the chapters ahead.

HONORING CHRIS LARSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chris Larson. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Chris contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project at the Earnest Shepherd Memorial Youth Center outside Liberty, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chris Larson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING AN OP-ED WRITTEN
BY MR. BILL PASCRELL

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share an excellent op-ed written by my colleague Mr. BILL PASCRELL, entitled, "Why is Congress so dumb?" In this lucid essay, Rep. PASCRELL discusses the systematic demolition of Congress' power to assemble accurate information, conduct investigations and develop sound policy. It is an imperative of the 116th Congress that we rebuild Congressional capacity to govern with the information we need. In his piece, which appeared in the Washington Post, Mr. PASCRELL writes:

In a year of congressional low lights, the hearings we held with Silicon Valley leaders last fall may have been the lowest. One of my colleagues in the House asked Google CEO Sundar Pichai about the workings of an iPhone—a rival Apple product. Another colleague asked Facebook head Mark Zuckerberg, "If you're not listening to us on the phone, who is?" One senator was flabbergasted to learn that Facebook makes money from advertising. Over hours of testimony, my fellow members of Congress struggled to grapple with technologies used daily by most Americans and with the functions of the Internet itself. Given an opportunity to expose the most powerful businesses on Earth to sunlight and scrutiny, the hearings did little to answer tough questions about the tech titans' monopolies or the impact of their platforms. It's not because lawmakers are too stupid to understand Facebook. It's because our available resources and our policy staffs, the brains of Congress, have been so depleted that we can't do our jobs properly.

Americans who bemoan a broken Congress rightly focus on ethical questions and electoral partisanship. But the tech hearings demonstrated that our greatest deficiency may be knowledge, not cooperation. Our founts of independent information have been cut off, our investigatory muscles atrophied, our committees stripped of their ability to develop policy, our small staffs overwhelmed by the army of lobbyists who roam Washington. Congress is increasingly unable to comprehend a world growing more socially, economically and technologically multifaceted—and we did this to ourselves. When the 110th Congress opened in 2007, Democrats rode into office on a tide of outrage at the George W. Bush administration and the Republican Congress, which had looked the other way during the Tom DeLay, Jack Abramoff and Duke Cunningham scandals. My colleagues and I focused our energies on exposing corruption. But we missed crucial